



Office of the Speaker  
North Carolina House of Representatives

TIM MOORE  
SPEAKER

Governor Roy Cooper  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699

Chairman Damon Circosta  
N.C. State Board of Elections  
430 N. Salisbury St.  
Raleigh, N.C. 27603

January 2, 2019

Dear Governor Cooper and Chairman Circosta,

Thank you for service to North Carolina and consideration of this letter regarding your administration's constitutional duty to implement our state's voter ID policy and defend it against legal challenges through attorneys at the state Department of Justice (DOJ).

I write seeking public assurances that you will immediately request a stay and appeal of federal Judge Loretta Biggs' last-minute decision to block North Carolina's voter ID law from taking effect in the case of *NAACP v. Cooper*.

Attorneys for the DOJ noted on your behalf that North Carolina's voter ID law is devoid of any discriminatory intent, writing that "whether the law likely denies or abridges the right to vote on the basis of race...the answer is no."

In-fact, our state's voter ID law was sponsored by an African-American Senate Democrat and approved by bipartisan supermajorities in both chambers of the General Assembly following the people's approval of a constitutional amendment to adopt this commonsense measure.

As Attorney General Stein wrote to the court on your behalf, "there is no evidence that the General Assembly requested and used racial data" to write the voter ID law, and the availability of free IDs from the DMV and county boards of elections "reduce any significant burdens that would result from disparate rates of ID possession."

We further agree with the DOJ's court filings on your behalf that "the burden imposed by a photo identification requirement is minimized by the reasonable impediment provisions of

SB824” because “even if a voter fails to present ID at the polls, her vote counts if she merely attests to why she was unable to present ID” and “a reasonable impediment ballot is presumptively valid.”

“The reasonable impediment provision dramatically expands the universe of available exceptions,” Attorney General Stein told the court on your behalf, a critical reason you must immediately seek a stay and appeal of the court’s unjust decision to block North Carolina’s voter ID law in this case.

“The Fourth Circuit has upheld an even more burdensome process of voting without a required ID,” than North Carolina law, DOJ attorneys noted to Judge Biggs, and her reliance on analysis of a prior voter ID law in North Carolina is misplaced given “the current photo ID requirements are much less stringent than those in the prior law.”

Thirty-four states already have some form of voter ID law and North Carolina’s is one of the most lenient in the nation because, as Attorney General Stein told the court, “the reasonable impediment exception accommodates nearly all conceivable voters who may lack a photo ID” to ensure no voter is turned away.

Our voter ID law further accommodates religious objectors and victims of natural disasters, provides for free government-issued IDs and accepts drivers’ licenses, passports, military and veteran IDs, student IDs, voter ID cards, as well as state and local government IDs. Expired drivers’ licenses and licenses from other states even qualify in some circumstances.

While we are disappointed by Judge Biggs’ misguided ruling and refusal to allow General Assembly lawmakers to intervene in this case and defend the voter ID rules that we approved, we are hopeful that you will continue to fulfill through the DOJ your constitutional duties to faithfully execute and defend the laws of our state, and the will of our people, who approved a constitutional amendment to adopt this measure.

I urge you to seek an immediate stay and appeal of the preliminary injunction blocking North Carolina’s commonsense and accommodative voter ID law.

Thank you again for your service to our great state.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

Tim Moore  
Speaker of the House  
North Carolina General Assembly

CC: Attorney General Josh Stein